

Remarks**Status Of Claims**

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-17 are pending in this application. Claims 1 is amended herein. Applicants respectfully request entry of this Amendment and Request for Reconsideration under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114. No new matter is added.

Response to Claim Rejections under 37 C.F.R. § 102(b)

The Advisory Action maintains the previous rejection of claims 1-17 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Yano et al. (US 6352327; “Yano ‘327”). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Applicants respectfully assert Yano ‘327 fails to disclose all claimed elements of Applicants’ claimed invention as recited in claims 1, 6, 11 and 16. All claimed structural elements are not disclosed. For example, Yano ‘327 fails to disclose the number of sets of print elements aligned in the scan direction is equal to an integer times the number of drive blocks.

The Office Action of July 14, 2006, alleges the above-claimed structural feature of the present invention is disclosed in column 9, lines 47-54, of Yano ‘327. However, at the above lines of Yano ‘327, the number of printing elements, 8-block driving, and 16-block driving are only explained. This disclosure does not anticipate Applicants’ claimed invention as recited above.

Therefore, Yano ‘327 dose not disclose all claimed elements of Applicants’ claimed invention. As set forth above, Applicants’ assert that all claimed structural elements are not disclosed by ‘327.

In view of the above, Applicants request the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-17 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b).

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully assert that the application is now believed to be in a form for allowance and such action is hereby solicited.

If any points remain an issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through an additional personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

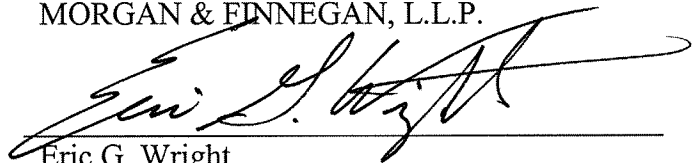
AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required by this paper, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-5326. A DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS SHEET IS ATTACHED.

Respectfully submitted,
MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.

Dated: November 14, 2006

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